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Published by Sun Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 15 Volume 17

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■ PELHAM TOWN COUNCIL: More details revealed about mega development

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

A major seniors housing development, a medical arts building as well as retail and food components will be a "mammoth task" if portions of it are expected to be open by 2015.

See **PROJECT** Page 2

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Giving life to a new tradition



Pelham News Photo
The 18th annual Pelham Home and Leisure Show will offer an opportunity for women to learn more about the creation of the Fonthill Kinetite Club. See story page 8.



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upfront

■ PROJECT:

A mixture of private and public uses

FROM PAGE 1

But David Allen, from Toronto-based developer The Allen Group, said Fonthill Gardens Inc., a subsidiary of his company, is looking forward to working with the Town of Pelham to see the massive development in Fonthill come to fruition.

About 12.8 hectares of land owned by the town is now being prepared for potential development of a twin-pad arena and community centre. That land is being appraised just in case the Allen Group or other developers want to purchase pieces of it.

Allen attended Pelham council Monday night to discuss the new project that he said will develop "into an innovative mixture of private and public uses."

Other groups that have signed on to the project include Baybridge Seniors Housing, a company which plans to add 12 townhouse units for seniors and a three to-four storey main lodge, also for seniors, consisting of 120 units to the property.

"It is possible, given the way the master plan seems to be coming together, that they (Baybridge) will consider additional units in the future," Allen said.

Little Lakes Seniors Community and Health Centre propose to build a 3,600 square-metre, multi-disciplinary health clinic integrating services for physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and other health-care professionals that would allow seniors to access health services they

need without leaving town.

Allen said the proposed building for Fonthill is based on a facility Little Lakes has currently under construction in Barrie.

Pelham and area physicians are working to bring a wide variety of services, Allen said, adding that other professionals such as accountants and lawyers will likely be "attracted" to the facility.

Meetings have been held with the provincial Ministry of Health, the local Health Integration Network and local physicians to gather their feedback on Little Lake's proposal.

Allen said to date all of the response about the development has been positive.

"In the coming months, the scope of these services will come into sharper focus as

Little Lakes moves forward."

In terms of commercial and retail development, Allen said Fonthill Gardens has had "numerous expressions of interest" from "major and minor" retailers.

"It's our expectation now that the town and ourselves have decided to proceed on a master site plan that we can turn our casual interest into firm commitments."

Before ground can be broken on the development, Allen told council a lot of work has to be done before ground can be broken on the development.

"Legal agreements, site planning, engineering studies and a myriad number of other tasks must be identified, undertaken and, most importantly, completed."



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

A long awaited development planned consisting of seniors housing and a medical arts facility is for the corner of Rice Rd. and Regional Rd. 20.

■ **ACTION PLAN:** Meeting planned for Region representatives, province and chamber of commerce

Pelham considers economic action plan

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNews Staff

An economic action plan for small and medium-sized Pelham businesses may start to take shape this year.

Town councillors have decided to host an economic development strategy meeting in the coming weeks. Invited will be representatives from the region, province, Westland-Pelham

Chamber of Commerce and the Pelham Business Association.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said residents expect an action plan.

"We're not out there creating jobs, but we are doing things to help. We are providing an environment small businesses can be created and grow."

Chamber of commerce president Verne Milot and

executive director Dolores Fabiano on Tuesday night presented a proposal to councillors aimed at creating the process of creating a business retention and expansion plan.

Milot said there are three ways municipalities can help the economy grow -- foreign investment, incubation centres and retention and expansion plans.

"There are not many

foreign countries who want to invest in Canada these days."

"They aren't coming to give us 1,000 jobs any time soon," he said. "Incubation centres help start-ups, but seven out of eight of those no longer exist in five years."

He said council's best option is to help the upwards of 600 small businesses in Pelham collaborate and grow together, but

the first step is to create a comprehensive database of all of those businesses.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said it is a great idea and council should move on it, but Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi said he wouldn't support the motion because more research needs to be done.

"We need to sit down and talk about our expectations for an economic devel-

opment plan," Accursi said.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durely also wouldn't support the motion because he didn't know where the funding to pay for the project would come from, but Augustyn assured council \$50,000 was set aside in the 2013 budget for branding and economic development.

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St. Ann goes 'wacky' in March

For PelhamNews

Even though March was a short month for the students at St. Ann, with a week off for March break, we were just as busy as always.

Student Parliament started March with Wacky Week. In an effort to raise funds for a hydration station and build school spirit at the same time, they planned a week filled with wacky activities.

We dressed up as our favourite movie character and watched movies. We all wore the wackiest tie we could find in our closets. Waikiki Wednesday had us all hula dancing in grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts and we all wore our favourite ball caps on Fan Friday. It was a great week.

We travelled a lot in March for various field trips and sporting events. The Grade 5-8 class had the opportunity to watch the Men's National Volleyball tournament at Niagara College and later they went skating at Pelham Arena.

Students in Grades 1 to 3 spent a chilly afternoon at White Meadows Sugar Bush to learn all about the production of maple syrup. They enjoyed a wagon ride, a tour through the forest, and of course, pancakes and maple syrup!

The senior kindergarten and junior kindergarten classes travelled to the St. John's Outdoor Education Centre to see the spring lambs. They saw lots of baby lambs and learn how wool is processed.

Our gymnasium was filled with history as the students from Grades 4-6 presented Heritage Fair. The students were required to pick a topic from Canadian history and present it with a backdrop. The projects varied from



St. Ann student Lola Prevost feeds a goat in the sugar bush at White Meadows Farm.

Supplied photo

Pioneers to Pelham, beavers to Laura Secord, fashion to hockey. The students spent

the afternoon displaying their project, answering questions and sharing what they had

learned with their fellow students.

We finished March with

Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year for Catholics everywhere. During this week

the children in Grade 2 celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time.

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Pelham NEWS

Published by PelhamNEWS

Sun Media Corp.

228 East Main St., Welland, ON L0S 1E0

Tel: 905-732-2414 ext.246 Fax: 905-732-3660

e-mail: pelham.news@sunmedia.ca

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Sarah Ferguson, reporter


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perspective

Following in dad's footsteps

Canada is on the verge of entering uncharted waters when it comes to one of its major political parties being led by the son of a prime minister who made an indelible mark of the cultural, social and economic fabric of this country.

Justin Trudeau is entering middle age and using his credentials as a one-time drama teacher as evidence that he's fit to be Liberal leader and future PM. These qualifications, plus his name, may (or may not) resonate among voting Canadians.

This latter is an imponderable about Justin. No one, not even Prime Minister Stephen Harper nor his wise-*ass* advisers, have a clue if Justin is destined to be a messiah or the sizzle of another passing comet.

In western societies it's relatively rare that the offspring (sons, really) of prime ministers and political leaders seek to take over dad's old job. Invariably, the son as PM has fared more poorly than the father in high post.

One has only to think of Paul Martin Jr., seemingly destined to be a balanced and able PM, failing rather wretchedly, after being one of the best finance ministers in our history.

Often, the kids of presidents and PMs are walking embarrassments — witness Maggie Thatcher's son, Ronald Reagan's kids, Roosevelt's sons.

So, while the record of sons succeeding fathers as political leaders is not encouraging, the Liberal Party of Canada is not intimidated — forgetting that when Pierre Trudeau contested the leadership, more Liberals opposed him up until he won the final ballot with 50.9% of the vote.

— Peter Worthington, Sun Media

■ COLUMN

Well, I know it was all in good fun but I cannot help but feeling a little hurt by a column last Tuesday (April 9) in the "Regional" section of the SunMedia's Niagara newspapers.

You see, it was a column by Doug Herod that coincided with another story about how many of Niagara's cities and towns are branding or rebranding themselves.

Entitled "Fun with municipal monikers", Herod offered a tongue-and-cheek review of each municipality.

"Take, for instance, Pelham," he wrote. "The possibilities were endless: Leaf Blower Capital of Canada; A Town of Two-Car Garages; Underground Lawn Sprinklers R Us."

"One, though, encapsulates all these elements, Pelham: A Great Place to Sleep," he wrote.

Then, Herod proceeded to skewer each of the unique

communities of Niagara — from the Garden City, to the Rose City, to the Honeymoon Capital.

So, how do I react? First, Herod missed a huge opportunity. He could have mentioned that we hired "Chimps" to oversee our rebranding. (In truth, we recently hired a well-respected Niagara firm called Chimpanzee to work together with the community to develop a Pelham brand.)

Second, Herod had to invent a brand for Pelham.

So, what was forgotten or missed?

He wrote nary a word about Pelham's breathtaking vistas, babbling brooks, plentiful orchards or refreshingly rural character. He neglected our historic villages / hamlets and our distinctive, small-town feel. He offered no word about our diverse and creative businesses and nothing about the hundreds



DAVE AUGUSTYN
MAYORAL VIEW

and hundreds of amazing and dedicated volunteers.

What about the Comfort Maple or the Bandshell or the Farmer's Market? What about our parades or Summerfest, Biketoberfest, and other historic celebrations (like the June 1st commemoration of Fenwick's 160th)?

What about the Fenwick Flagpole or the Fonthill Arch? What about Old Town Hall or Veteran's Park? Each of these distinct elements were missed.

Through the years, Pelham has been known as "The Heart of Niagara," "Five Villages, One Community," and "The Most

Vibrant, Creative, and Caring Community in Niagara."

I think that the last time the town involved the public in a type of branding was in the late 1970s / early 1980s while developing of the Town's Official Coat of Arms. (Please note that our coat of arms and our motto "Floreat Pelham" (or "May Pelham Flourish") will not change.)

That's why it's important for you and your neighbours and friends to work together with the Town over the next couple of months to develop and refine the right brand for Pelham. The first step is to take the online survey at <http://yourpelham.ca/>.

Then, at least next time, Herod can lambast Pelham's correct moniker.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

■ COLUMN

Pelham is a Niagara Hot Spot

The Spring Market sales spree in Pelham continues while overall, total sales in the Niagara Region lag behind last year.

During the First Quarter of 2013 Pelham home sales were 24% ahead of the level achieved during the same period in 2012. First Quarter sales across Niagara were down 8.5% compared to 2012 results.

According to the MLS statistics of the Niagara Association of Realtors there were 51 unit sales in Pelham during the first three months of 2013 while last year the tally was 41. The current level of sales in Pelham is well ahead of the 2007-2012 Six Year average of 40 unit sales in the First Quarter. Niagara-wide there were 1,317 residential sales reported during the First Quarter this year compared to a total of 1,440 in the first



CATHY BERKHOUT-BOSSE
REAL ESTATE VIEW

three months of 2012.

So far this year, the sales that happened in Pelham moved much quicker than last year with an average market time of 74 days compared to last year's First Quarter average of 89 days.

Interestingly the average number of days on the market for homes is lower across all of Niagara. Despite the fact that there have been fewer sales overall those that sell are changing hands faster. The average number of days on the market in Niagara during the First Quarter was 66 days down from 74



days recorded in the First Quarter of 2012.

On March 15, the Canadian Real Estate Association lowered its forecast for National sales activity to a prediction of 441,500 units in

2013. This represents a 2.9 per cent decline from the total of 454,573 sales recorded in 2012, and stands five per cent below the 10-year average (2003 - 2012).

Our Niagara housing market remains firmly in balanced territory as the number of new listings keeps trending down in tandem with a slowdown in demand. The low inventory level has effectively kept the market in check and continues to spur on average price growth.

As of the end of March, the 12 month average price in Niagara stood at \$242,756 - up 3.6% from \$234,246 posted last year in March 2012.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse is a Real Estate Broker at Remax Welland Realty Ltd living in Pelham. You may read past columns at www.NiagaraRealtySourceReport.com.

■ COLUMN

A lot of changes happening at Pelham Library

In my last column I discussed the features of the simple search screen of the online public catalogue.

As often happens, you are trying to find a book for which you know neither the exact title nor the spelling of the author's name.

If this happens to you, don't despair.

Although you may find what you're looking for by selecting "subject" on that screen, there are many cases in which a one-word subject is not specific enough because you get too many hits or none at all.

If you click on "advanced

search" from the simple search screen, another search screen will appear on which you can enter several topics or aspects of topics at once.

For example, you may want to know about slipwrecks on the Great Lakes. If you type in "slipwrecks" as one keyword and "Great Lakes" as another keyword, you should get several hits. It's easy. Try it.

Moving on to news from the library, have you looked at our website recently? It is up-to-

date and interesting.

All of the changes are thanks to our webmaster, Elaine Anderson. The web site is a great source of information about the library which include telephone numbers and hours. The web site is also a better source of

day-to-day changes than just browsing our newsletter which comes out every two months.

Those who visit the library's website can learn more about upcoming events at the library, including a visit from distin-

guished Canadian author, Elizabeth Hay, on April 21.

Next time, I will highlight some of the other riches you can mine from the library's website.

Some time ago, I discussed that favourite genre, mystery, and some of the more popular and prolific writers. There are several excellent Canadian mystery authors: Mary Jane Maffini, who has written several books set in Ottawa, Giles Blunt who sets most of his books in North Bay (thickly disguised as Algonquin Bay) or Vicki Delany whose books are set in the BC interior.

I don't know of anyone who writes mysteries which feature Atlantic Canada but there might be someone.

Certainly, lots of novels have been set in Newfoundland, just not murder mysteries. Most of these stories couldn't be described as cosy exactly, but they aren't at the most violent end of the spectrum either. At its best, mystery and other well-written popular fiction satisfies the desire for rounded characters and intriguing plots plus a little information about other parts of the country and, if set in

the past, some history.

Last of all, now the two public meetings about the Fenwick and Fonthill library services and buildings have taken place, it will be interesting to see the final report of the consultant, Todd MacDonald. The interim report, which can be accessed either on the Town of Fenwick website or the library website, contains the final recommendations of the architect/librarian, Lauren Stara, who assisted Todd with an analysis of the two buildings. Please take a look and see what you think.

See you at the Library!



Giles

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A year-long learning experience

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

In August, Gracie Lowes will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

That's when she will kiss her mother, Catharine, and her father, Chris, goodbye, as she boards a plane that will take her to Kanazawa, Japan.

The 15-year-old Fonthill resident will be spending a year abroad in the Asian country to learn about the culture as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Lowes expects to be thrown into the frying pan — she doesn't know the language or the customs and will attend a Japanese school.

But she's learning all she can with help from a Japanese tutor before she packs her bags to begin her journey.

"I have never travelled on my own and I am ecstatic to have this amazing opportunity," Lowes said about going to Japan.

She plans to become a documentary filmmaker and this experience abroad is one Lowes hopes will change her perspective on the world.

As she begins her journey, she plans on bringing a video camera and creating a video diary as well as writing about her experiences to share with others.

Lowes' blog can be viewed online at www.gracielowes.com.

"The more you take out of life, the more you can share with others," Lowes said about why she wants to

ABOUT THE ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Each year, about 8,000 students from more than 100 countries participate in exchanges as part of the program.

The program is open to students ages 15 to 19 and lasts 10 to 12 months.

Students live with more than one host family in the country they are visiting and attend school.

Ideal youth exchange candidates are open-minded individuals with an academic record in good standing.

Applicants are not required to be involved with the Rotary club or district that supports them.

chronicle her trip.

Mike Taylor, youth exchange coordinator for Rotary Club of Fonthill, said the Rotary organization has sent students abroad for about 100 years.

Rotary clubs work together, and send one student each year. Rotary Club of Welland is sponsoring Lowes to go to Japan while Rotary Club of Fonthill is sending another student from the region on a trip abroad.

Students ages 15 to 19 can apply to the program and can visit any country that has a participating Rotary club.

Applications for the program are usually accepted in September and October.

Students live with two to three host families during the course of their visit and stay with one host family anywhere from two to three months at a time.

Lowes isn't a stranger to the exchange program — her father is a long-time Rotary member — and her family has been involved with exchange students. They have even hosted a student from Sweden.

"It's what made me be so interested in becoming an exchange student," she said. "It will teach me a sense of independence. It will be the first time I have ever been away from my family that long."

Lowes mother said it's a learning experience for both the host family and the exchange student. Both the family and the student learn about different ways of living, customs and beliefs. "We jumped right into it and it was enriching for the whole family because we were exposed to a different culture," the mom said about why they became involved with the Rotary exchange student program.

Taylor said both Rotary clubs are looking for families to host exchange students from other countries.

For more information e-mail Taylor at mike.taylor@yrn.ca or visit www.rotary.org for more information.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Gracie Lowes, centre, will be headed to Japan in August as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Her parents, Chris and Catharine Lowes, say they are excited about the experiences their daughter will have overseas.

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Tuesday Apr 23rd 9:30am - 10:30am

Thursday Apr 25th 9:30am - 10:30am

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Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - April 23rd and 25th

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesday Apr 23rd at Pelham Arena from 9-10am and Thursday Apr 25th at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30am. For more information, contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 341.

Ready Set Cycle! - A Bicycling Course - May 22, May 29, June 5 & June 12

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(8+ yrs) 6:00 - 6:30pm

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Thursdays @ Old Pelham Town Hall

46 Canboro Rd. Ridgville

(4-7 yrs) 5:30-6:00pm

(8+ yrs) 6:00-6:30pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Help Keep Pelham Beautiful - Community Clean Up Days - April 18, 19 & 20

Corporate Challenge Day - April 18; Student Participation Day - April 19; Community Clean Up Day - April 20 - 9am until 1pm at Centennial Park, 999 Church Street, Fenwick. BBQ lunch provided by the Fabulous Fenwick Lions. The Town of Pelham will provide garbage bags, gloves and safety vests. To register or for more information, contact (905) 892-2607, ext. 347 or sjjaeger@pelham.ca.

Pelham Farmers' Market - OPENING DAY MAY 2 - Pelham Town Square

2013 marks the 10th year for our vibrant Farmers' Market! Come out and meet your local market vendors and purchase food that is fresh, high in quality and the next best thing to harvesting it yourself. Every Thursday from May 2 to October 24, 4:30 pm till dusk.

E. L. Crossley Secondary School 50th Reunion - May 17, 18 & 19

All past and present students are invited for a weekend celebration featuring special messages from former graduates, memorabilia displays, food vendors, a pub night, a street dance featuring alumni Crossley bands and a presentation of arts, drama and music. For more information, visit www.elcrossleyschool50th.com or call (905) 892-2635.

5th Annual Pelham Mayor's Gala - Saturday, May 25

Mayor Dave Augustyn and community volunteers are hosting a night of intrigue and entertainment at "Casino Royale" at Lookout Point Golf & Country Club, 209 Tice Road, Fonthill. Funds raised will support the Riehl Skate Park, the Niagara Centre Skating Club and the Pelham Community Fund as part of the Niagara Community Foundation. Individual tickets are available at Pelham Townhall and are \$135. Sponsorships are also available. For more information, contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 337.

Fenwick's 160th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, June 1, 10am-11pm

Enjoy a summer's day filled with heritage, activities, music and buskers - all for free. A 'heritage' focus will accompany the celebrations and all in attendance will be able to walk freely on the closed streets. Participant application and sponsorship forms are available at pelham.ca. Decorations (swags & bows) are still available for purchase on a first come, first served basis.

Pelham Summerfest 2013 - Thursday, July 18 until Sunday, July 21

It's never too early to start thinking about Pelham's summer fun festival! Check out pelhamsummerfest.ca for updates. Art show, vendor and sponsorship applications are now available online.

NOTICES & REMINDERS

Town of Pelham seeking Reserve Crossing Guards

Reserve school crosswalk guards are required to relieve regular guards during periods of illness and vacation. The position has an hourly wage of \$12.98 per hour. Persons interested can pick up an application form at Pelham Town Hall.

Join the Communities in Bloom Committee!

This Town Committee is dedicated to keeping Pelham beautiful and planning events such as Pelham's Annual Garden Tour and Community Participation Days in the Spring and Fall. To join or for more information, contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 341.

List Your Business in the Town of Pelham Recreation, Culture & Wellness Guide

Fill out a business directory information card with the Town of Pelham by visiting Town Hall or contact 905-892-2607, ext. 315.

Book the Arena Hall or Old Pelham Town Hall for your next function or event!

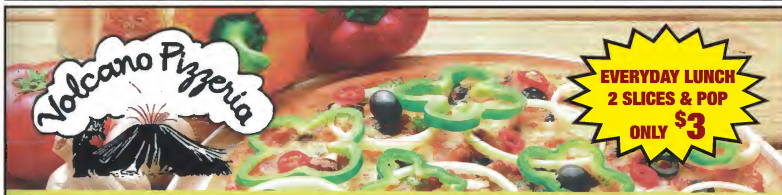
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Reminder for Dog Owners

Please note that in accordance with By-Law 97-2010, dog owners and walkers are required to remove all feces left behind on private or public property. Please remember to be responsible and stop and scoop!

Keep Pelham Streets "Lit"

Report any problems you notice with Town streetlights to Public Works at (905) 892-2607, ext. 332. Please remember to provide the pole number for the hydro utility to investigate.



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■ **TOWN STAFF:** Town of Pelham welcomes Ana McKnight

Communications officer brings fresh perspective to Pelham

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

Ana McKnight may have grown up in a big city, but she says she belongs in the heart of Niagara.

The Town of Pelham's new marketing and communications officer was hired in March and is looking forward to working in the community.

"I'm more excited than nervous," McKnight says as Pelham's first-ever marketing and communications officer.

She comes to Pelham from the City of Mississauga where she has worked for the past five years as a business analyst. McKnight grew up in downtown Toronto and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto.

McKnight's responsibilities for the Town of Pelham include reviewing events held in the community such as the annual Summerfest to identify better ways market events, using social media to increase awareness about the town as well as developing the bi-annual Municipal, Recreation, Culture and Wellness Guide.

"I'm excited to be joining the community, especially at such a great time," says McKnight, who will also oversee the town's branding and development of its new website.

Coming from a larger city, McKnight says she brings a "fresh perspective" to Pelham and looks forward to making sure all residents, whether young or old, are kept up-to-date with events and news in the town.

"My goal is to make sure every-

one is aware of all the information involving the town. With newspapers and magazines giving way to online, there is an instant ability to see what peers in the community think and feel."

Although she has only been at the town for a little over three weeks, McKnight said she feels as if she's "been here for months" as town staff have welcomed her.

Her first day on the job, McKnight was thrown directly into the fire pan with her attendance at a council meeting.

"I plan on attending all council meetings and be as active in the community as possible," says McKnight.

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VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Ana McKnight, the new communications and marketing officer for the Town of Pelham, will help to develop a new municipal brand.

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■ **POLITICS:** Liberal Party has 'entered a new chapter'

Niagara Liberals excited by new leader Trudeau

KARENA WALTER
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara Liberals were feeling excited and renewed Sunday after Justin Trudeau was elected the federal party's leader, gaining more than 80% of the vote.

The 41-year-old son of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau was the overwhelming favourite going into the leadership race to lead the party, which has been crippled in recent years.

"I think the Liberal Party has entered a new chapter. It's certainly a renaissance," said former Welland Liberal MP John Maloney.

"We have a new, energetic young leader. The NDP and Conservatives must be concerned."

Federal Liberals fell to third place for the first time in the 2011 election, behind the Conservatives and New Democrats. Trudeau becomes the party's seventh leader, including two interim leaders, in the last decade.

He told the crowd gathered at the convention in Ottawa that Liberals had become "more focused on fighting with each other than fighting for Canadians" and promised the era of "hyphenated Liberals" would end.

"I'm excited for the party,"

said former St. Catharines Liberal candidate Andrew Gill, adding it had the largest turnout for a leadership election. "It's time is for all Liberal members to get behind our leader."

Maloney said with such a convincing win, there won't be the infighting that weakened previous administrations. While there has always been a "shadow leader" — meaning a rival waiting to take over — Trudeau doesn't have one.

Maloney said Trudeau is charismatic, articulate and refreshing in person. He's an individual who will energize Canadians, he said, particularly young Canadians who have been accused of apathy.

Kayla Lauzon, president of the campus club Brock Young Liberals, agreed. She was among approximately 80 Liberal supporters from across Niagara gathered at the BlueLine Diner on Montrose Rd. in Niagara Falls on Sunday to watch the results live on TV.

"I think it's the start of a new era for the party," said Lauzon, who's also a member of the executive of the federal Niagara Falls Liberal riding association and met with Trudeau last February.

"It will be a young leader meaning we can attract a new crowd and get youth involved again."

Former Niagara Falls federal Liberal candidate Bev Hodgson said Trudeau has done an excellent job unifying the party.

"He has an amazing way of reaching people, from a 14-year-old to the entire breadth of the party," she said.

Hodgson said he has a momentum that will continue beyond the leadership convention.

"I think this is just the beginning. I really think it will continue to grow. The excitement among the regional Liberals who gathered today is palpable."

Welland federal Liberal riding association president Peter Opdam said party members are ready to move past the recent years and work together.

He said Trudeau's speech had a positive message, focused on the concerns of the average person and not just the concerns of the few.

While he was initially surprised Trudeau put his name forward, he said he's



JOHN MAJOR QMI Agency
Newly elected federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau addresses the crowd during his acceptance speech on Sunday.

happy with transpired.

"It's not just about his last name, it's about having the experience and ideas,"

Opdam said, adding it's apparent Trudeau can stand on his own two feet, he said.
— With files from Alison

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■ **TRAINS:** Hobbyists hold open house

All aboard!

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNews Staff

Vikas Wadhwa wants a train station in his house. He has had a passion for trains since he was five-years-old and he still has the trains and original Matchbox cars his father gave him in the '70s.

Now that he's married and has an 11-year-old son, Arahun, he can share his hobby and his collection.

The family attended The Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers' open house at the club in Fenwick on Sunday and upon seeing the club's massive, winding display Wadhwa wants to buy a larger house and dedicate an entire room to a model railroad.

"I've always loved trains and I've kept everyone I've ever gotten and I've passed them down to my son," he

said. "I love watching it, it's so much fun."

Nearly 200 people arrived to view the trains Sunday, and club members were expecting just as many visitors next Sunday when the open house continues from noon to 4 p.m. at the Maple St. club.

Club member Dave Stremlaw said the hobby is tons of fun and he is constantly learning new things.

"It's one of those things where you're always learning different skills, from painting and artistry to electricity and how the trains run," he said.

As busy as the club was during the weekend open house, Stremlaw said it's been far busier in the past.

The 15 members of the club meet every Wednesday evening to continue work on the railway, it's cars and scenery.

A lot of work goes into making the 1/87-scale trains look as realistic as possible as they roll through the miniature towns and villages that are meant to mimic 1950's or 60's Fenwick.

Club member Lyall Baskin said they spend weeks putting together a certain section of the railroad and if they aren't completely satisfied with the outcome they rip it out and start again.

"There's always something new to learn and I really enjoy that," he said. "Some members are good at weathering (painting rail cars to make them look used) and others are better at landscaping and we use that to our advantage, as much as we can."

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @VixeyG



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Brandon Little watched trains come and go at The Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers open house in Fenwick.

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VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Six-year-old Matthew Whitaker watched trains come and go at The Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers open house in Fenwick.

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SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Fonthill Lions Club member Fred Arbour says the service organization has a long-standing tradition in Pelham. He would like to see more people join the club.

■ **LIONS:** Fonthill organization chartered in April 1945

Lions looking for new members

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

The Fonthill Lions are looking for new members to join their den.

"Right now we only have about 11 members and one prospect who is thinking about joining the club," said club member Fred Arbour.

He is hoping more people will become involved with the club's fundraisers which support community events, sports programs and organizations such as Pelham Cares.

The Fonthill Lions Club was chartered in April of

1945 and at one time it had many members.

"In the early 1980s, we had up to 55 members and we had to cut off membership to 60 people," Arbour said.

But according to Arbour, a lot has changed since then which have resulted in the club's declining membership. Many members have since moved, or had other commitments such as family and work, Arbour said.

"Young families seem to be more involved with their kids, and work full-time jobs. It's a different way of life now, then it was

back then."

What many people may not realize, Arbour said, is the Lions Club is co-ed, so everyone is welcome to join.

The Fonthill Lion wants potential members to also know they can commit to giving as much time as possible. Whether it's a couple hours to 20 hours a month, the club is "prepared to take what a person can give in terms of time."

Although individuals have to be 18 to be an official member of the service organization, high school students are also welcome to volunteer to meet

their community service requirements.

Arbour, who has belonged to the club since 1969, said he enjoys being able to give back to the community while being part of a group of like-minded individuals.

"I enjoy the comradeship. For the most part, we all get along quite well and the fellowship is good."

For more information about becoming a member call Arbour at 905-892-1179 or Doug Gaylor at 905-892-1179.

Sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

■ EVENTS

Community Cleanup Day set for Saturday

Pelham's Communities in Bloom committee and the Fabulous Fenwick Lions are

hosting the town's annual Community Cleanup Day Saturday.

Teams will meet at Centennial Park on Church St. in Fenwick at 9 a.m., get a

route, garbage bags and gloves. The Lions will provide a free lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.



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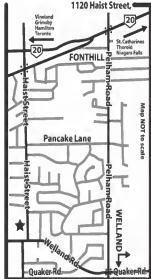
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■ **RELIGION:** Welland resident chronicles history of Catholic Church Extension Society

Book no easy feat

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — It was an arduous undertaking for Michael Power, but after three years of research and writing, the church historian has told an important story.

Through his latest book, *Singular Vision: The Founding of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada 1908 to 1915*, he has chronicled an historical account of the early years of the Catholic Church Extension Society.

The organization, now known as Catholic Missions

in Canada, was founded by Father Alfred Burke in 1908 to keep the Catholic faith in poor and remote mission communities in Canada.

More than 100 years later, the organization remains strong today, the Welland resident said.

"The Internet has helped me a lot," Power said about how he retrieved pictures and documents about the organization from communities across Canada and the U.S.

It wasn't an easy task, he said, but by searching web-sites and tracking down contacts through e-mail, Power

pieced together the organization's history.

In some cases, Power needed someone to translate Latin documents into English.

But once he was able to contact the people who had the information he needed, the story started to come together.

During his research, Power noted the amount of information that was available. The world has changed significantly since 1908, Power said, because many people wrote letters, and if they needed a message sent fast, they used telegrams.



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Welland resident Michael Power holds a copy of his book, *Singular Vision: The Founding of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada 1908 to 1915*.

"Telegrams were Twitter, but written on paper," he said, adding that much of how the story unfolded to him was

through the letters people had written and the telegrams that had been sent during those early years.

Copies of Power's book can be purchased by calling 1-800-387-7164 or online at www.novais.ca.



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■ HEALTH

Brock, college enhance focus on students' mental health

DON FRASER
Pelham News

Mental health care for post-secondary students in Niagara is poised for a major spending boost.

Brock University will receive \$360,240 from the provincial government over three years to deal with growing concerns over the issue.

The money allows Brock to partner with Niagara College to develop an online portal

and face-to-face information sessions focused on mental health.

It's based on the aboriginal concept of a wellness wheel that connects the emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual aspects of a person.

The Holistic Wellness Initiative will first focus on aboriginal, Metis and Inuit student needs. By 2014, it expands to all post-secondary students in the region.

"This really looks at the

needs of students from the perspective of the whole picture," said Jill Brindle, Brock's manager for learning and aboriginal student services.

"It could be about students facing emotional stress, or worries about exams," Brindle said. "And the portal we're building will look at these (four aspects) of well-being."

While the concept is aboriginal, its effectiveness applies to everybody, she

said. For example, "an emotional concern can become a physical concern."

The portal will also connect students with mental health resources and provide support for physical issues, like emerging diabetes.

"Ultimately, the purpose of the portal will be to join a larger network (in Ontario)," Brindle said. "It'll be like a welcoming doorway to connect students with a whole

range of services."

This year, she said, the portal will be in development. Students in need will get face-to-face connections with Niagara service providers.

Niagara College vice-president Sean Kennedy hails the project as another example of the college and Brock collaborating on student issues.

"This funding is a boost to our efforts," he said in an e-mail. "And (it's) a catalyst for taking a broad perspective

in how we work to support student mental health and wellness."

The holistic wellness program is among 10 recently announced by the provincial ministry of training, colleges and universities. The three-year, \$27-million initiative is responding to a focus on improving campus mental health.

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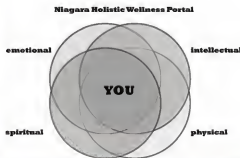
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Jill Brindle, Brock's manager for learning and aboriginal student services



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■ **POLICE:** New unit has 12 specially trained investigators

NRP take new approach on domestic violence

DAN DAKIN
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

One thousand, six-hundred and ninety.

That's how many calls were made to the police to report domestic violence in Niagara in the first three months of 2013.

It's an issue that will never vanish, but the way Niagara Regional Police are handling domestic violence cases has changed.

From those nearly 1,700 calls, 311 were deemed serious enough to be investigated by the new Domestic Violence Unit, a 13-person team of specially trained detectives covering Niagara. More than 220 individuals were charged.

"Using the resources we've put into this, we've been able to get uniformed officers back on the road quicker and we're doing higher quality investigations," said Staff Sgt. Randy Bleich, who oversees the Special Victims Unit under which the new Domestic Violence Unit falls.

"The feedback we're getting from our own people and the Crown attorneys is (that) it's working well."

In the past, domestic calls were handled by the responding officer, regardless of how long the investigation took. That meant constables could be off the road for as long as "four to six hours," said Bleich.

In 2008, a pilot project was launched to have one of three specialized detectives respond to serious domestic incidents in St. Catharines. The project was expanded to include Grimsby in 2011, which led to the creation of the full unit at the end of 2012.

Its supervisor Det. Sgt. Richard Ciszek and the 12 detectives who work for him set up an office area inside NRP headquarters at 110 James St. in St. Catharines and have had a non-stop workload since the start of the year.

Bleich said the fact they're as busy as they are shows how much of a problem domestic violence is in Niagara.

The unit investigates what

Ciszek calls violence involving intimate partners, which could mean husbands and wives, same-sex partners, common-law spouses and separated or divorced couples with children together.

"With domestic violence, it has become a much more in-depth investigation," said Ciszek.

While Niagara Falls might be known as the honeymoon capital, it's also a hotspot for these types of incidents.

"We're getting a lot of domestics with tourists coming into the casino district," Ciszek said.

"We have a lot of people who come here looking for a good time," added Bleich. "They're drinking and things don't go their way and then next thing you know..."

The Domestic Violence Unit works closely with victims' assistance groups and women's shelters, like Gillian's Place in St. Catharines.

The dedicated unit means there is more consistency with which NRP investigators, and the staff and victims at those programs are dealing with.

"Moving to the specialized unit is very helpful," said Anne Armstrong, executive director of Gillian's Place.

"It's a complex issue, so having that specialized knowledge allows them to have a solid understanding of the issue to move forward in the case."

While the unit has laid more than 220 charges this year, it is still rare for police to issue media releases containing the name of the suspect, because the privacy of the victim must still be respected.

"It would be victimizing them a second time if we started reporting names," said Ciszek.

To better protect the victims, investigators also provide them with safety plans with instructions on what to do if another domestic violence issue arises.

In the past, it was possible that charges would not be laid in cases of domestic violence



BOB TYMCZYSZYN QMI Agency Niagara

Det Sgt. Richard Ciszek with Det. Mike Delano and Det. Erica Warkentin, who head up the new domestic violence unit of the NRP.

if the abused partner did not want it.

No more.

"(Police) must lay a charge if there's reasonable grounds," Ciszek said.

BY THE NUMBERS

12
number of investigators in the NRP's Domestic Violence Unit

1,690
domestic violence-related calls from Jan. 1 to April 3

311
calls first investigated by new Domestic Violence Unit

222
individual charges laid by unit

7,000
typical number of domestic calls in a year

900
typical number of individuals charged

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■ GREEN ENERGY: Township sending formal message to new premier

Wainfleet: We don't want your turbines

DAVE JOHNSON
PelhamNews Staff

WAINFLEET — Niagara's largest geographic municipality has declared itself an "unwilling host" for turbines.

With Premier Kathleen Wynne talking about possible policy changes in the Green Energy Act and stating that communities that don't want turbines won't have to host them, Ald. Betty Konc put forward a motion at last Tuesday night's township council meeting to have Wainfleet declared an "unwilling host" for turbines.

The motion passed unanimously. Wainfleet follows the lead of Grey Highlands, and Prince Edward County and North Perth also expected to follow suit.

All four municipalities are part of a committee — called One Voice — formed during a symposium on wind turbines in Wainfleet in late February.

"Wynne said it was from the night she was put in the job that willing communities would have wind turbines

and unwilling communities wouldn't. We're hoping that's true because she keeps talking about it," Konc said Wednesday morning.

Konc said One Voice actually follows through with her statements and finds

a way to determine which municipalities are willing hosts and which aren't.

Konc

Though Wainfleet has gone on record as being

opposed to wind turbines in the community,

passing a motion to

torium against them and

passing a bylaw with strong

backlash than prescribed by the province, the alderman

has no doubt there are communities in which turbines

are wanted.

"It's all about the money

... proposed vibrancy funds."

One wind turbine company, she said, offered the township funds that it could use for whatever it wanted, but that was turned down.

"A lot of the communities don't want the money. It doesn't matter if it would help, because by taking the money it sends a message that they're accepting of wind turbines."

Though health issues pertaining to turbines are a concern for Konc, the bigger issue for her is the financial impact they have. It's an issue that's not raised all that much, she added.

She said with people who get sick from wind turbines

are just abandoning their homes, and municipalities suddenly lose tax revenue.

"That's a revenue stream that's not coming into the municipality."

The loss of valuable farmland is also a problem, she said. Though a turbine may take up one acre, it leaves a larger footprint, up to three acres, when access roads and underground power supplies are factored in.

"That's a loss of acreage, and farmers feed cities. We can't do without food."

Konc said animals are more sensitive than humans when it comes to low-frequency noise generated by wind turbines.

If farmers have trouble with raising feed animals near turbines, that's more revenue lost to them and the community.

"If we continue down this path we're going to shoot ourselves in the foot over this. It's scary when you start to add things up."

The alderman said One Voice also came up with some reasonable policy changes the province could implement if Wynne follows through on her promise to revamp the Green Energy Act.

Konc is hoping a face-to-face meeting with the premier and ministers involved can be arranged.

There is a sense of urgency to try and get changes to the act made this month, as Wynne has suggested might happen, said the alderman.

With Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s paperwork before the province and sitting in the queue to be approved, Konc said there's a possibility its five-turbine project could get in before policy changes are made, especially if the act isn't changed this month.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

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■ COMMUNITY

Pelham Cares chronicling 30 years of service

With 30 years of service in the community, Pelham Cares has plenty of stories to tell.

To preserve those stories for future generations, the non-profit organiza-

tion formed an archives committee last fall gather information such as board meeting minutes, services offered, past volunteers as well as newspaper clippings and photographs,

says committee member Caroline Toffolo.

The purpose is to create a historical reference to the events leading up to the formation of Pelham Cares and its three decades of

service.

The committee has already chronicled the years 1982 and 1983, leading to the organization's creation in January 1983.

"Once we get the story, it

will be available to people. However, we are still deciding on a format to display it," Toffolo says.

If individuals want to contribute photos or newspaper clippings about

Pelham Cares, they can be sent to info@pelhamcares.org or they can be dropped off at the Pelham Cares office at 124 Hwy. 20 E. For more information call 905-892-5300.



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PELHAM BOYS NET GOLD

PELHAM — The Pelham Panthers went 4-1 and tamed the Hamilton Wildcats 31-29 in win a boys under-10 an Ontario Basketball Association championship.
 Pelham opened last weekend's tournament in London, Ont., by beating Orillia and Windsor before rebounding from a one-point loss to Sarnia by defeating Grimsby in the semifinals. Players include Quinn Bendis, Riley Bleich, Will Capes, T.J. Hurley, Joseph Kealey, Adam Kleinsmith, Josh LaRoche, Matthew Martel, Isaiah Pilkington, Lucas Ponting, Alex Rubino, Edison Sanecki, Connor Schuman, Thomas Wallacecourt and Matthew Zoretich.
 The Panthers were the only Niagara team to win a gold medal at Ontario Cup tournaments held throughout the province. At the under-12 major atom boys finals, which featured games at Eastdale, Jean Vanier and Niagara College, the Port Colborne Hornets dropped a 43-35 decision to Burlington in the bronze final while the Welland Warriors failed to advance to the final round finishing 0-3 in pool play.
 On tap are the boys under-17 championships taking place May 24-26 in Niagara.

TRILLIUM FUND KICKS IN

WELLAND — The Welland Soccer Club will spend \$75,000 over nine months to buy netting systems.
 With the grant from the Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF), the club intends to maximize the use of playing fields enabling more players to participate in a long-term development program. Many of the 20 grants going to not-for-profit and charitable organizations in Niagara help groups increase their impact and create sustainable benefits for the communities. "Our funding enables community groups to keep their focus on their missions. We are successful in achieving our own mission only to the extent that grant recipients create lasting, meaningful results," said Christine Clark Lafleur, chairwoman of the OTF's Niagara Grant Review Team.

WARLORDS TEAM TAKING SHAPE

WELLAND — Junior B lacrosse tryouts are being held daily from now until Saturday, April 20, at the youth arena.
 Weekday sessions are taking place from 8 until 10 nightly with weekend tryouts running from 2 until 4 p.m.
 All players must be registered before they can go on the floor. Photo copies of birth certificates are required as are permission to tryout forms for players coming from centres that have a junior team.
 Information on all tryout dates is available online at www.warlordjax.com.
 Welland faces Niagara Thunderhawks in a 7:30 p.m. game at Virgil Arena in the Thursday, May 2, season opener. First home game for the Warlords is Sunday, May 5, against the Elora Mohawks. Start time at Welland Arena is 7 p.m.



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SATURDAY

APRIL 20 PASTA NIGHT

The last pasta dinner hosted by Fonthill Lions will be on April 20. Fonthill Lions Hall on Hwy. 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, or \$6 for children under 12. Take out orders available.

MONDAY APRIL 22

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL Society meeting at Fonthill library at 7:30 p.m. Learn

about Whistling Gardens, Canada's newest Botanical Garden, in Wilsonville, south of Brantford. Opened last May, it has the largest public collection of conifers in the world.

FRIDAY APRIL 26

SCRABBLE FOR LITERACY Niagara Regional Literacy Council will be holding its 8th annual Scrabble fundraising tournament at the Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines. There will

be a cash bar, hot/cold buffet, penny table, silent auction, 50/50 draw and door prizes. Tickets are \$35 each or \$210 for a team of 6. Call 905-687-8299 to reserve your table.

SUNDAY

APRIL 21 EXOTIC TEAS

Discover teas from around the world. Pamela Cici of Owen's Teas, St. Catharines, gives a flavourful tour from a few of her wall of 200 teas. Pelham PublicLibrary at

2:00. \$4. Register ahead.

SATURDAY APRIL 27

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE Hosted by the Fonthill Lions at the Fonthill Lions Hall, Hwy. 20. 7 p.m. Prizes, light lunch and cash bar. \$5 per person.

SUNDAY APRIL 28

FASHION SHOW See all the latest fashions for spring and summer, check out the Spring Fashion Fling at the Brebeuf Hall

on Killaly Street E. in Port Colborne. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon being served at 1 p.m. All proceeds will assist the Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue to save the lives of abused equines. For more information or to purchase a ticket for \$25 which includes a glass of beer, call Sue at 905-834-7988.

TUESDAY

APRIL 30 ICONIC SITES

"Screech-In," historic

Titanic graveyard, iconic "Cheers" restaurant, and the Plymouth Rock. See and hear about the sites from Earl Clout of Verstraete Travel. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Pelham Public Library.

ONGOING LISTINGS

CALLING ALL FINE ARTISTS Second annual Art in the Park, juried fine art show, Pelham Peace Park, Fonthill, July 18 to 21. Application forms at www.patriciahaftar.com and at www.pelham-summerfest.com.

VENDORS WANTED

The Guild Hall Makers' Market, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, is held every Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To inquire, call Mary at 905-835-0394 or the church office at 905-834-3184.

HEARING CLINIC

Connect Hearing will be at the Fonthill branch giving free hearing screenings and answering any questions about hearing issues. Free but please schedule your appointment ahead at 905-892-6068. Monday April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pelham Public Library.

DROP-IN CRIBRAGE

Every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 613, Fonthill. Draw for partners. No charge, everyone welcome.

KNITTING CLUB

Work on your present project while spending time with other knitters at Pelham Public Library. All levels are welcome. Crochet tips will be shared at each session. Fridays from 1-3. \$2 includes refreshments. Drop in.

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